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NSA review completed



Seventeenth Report

**COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF
THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS**

DIA Review Completed

(This report covers the week from
8 June through 14 June 1973)

*This memorandum has been prepared jointly by the
Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense*

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COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF
THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS*

(This report covers the week from
8 June through 14 June 1973)

The Key Points

- Only about 60 North Vietnamese civilian and military specialists were observed beginning the infiltration trip toward South Vietnam during the week.
- Recent evidence indicates that small numbers of North Vietnamese tanks may be moving northward in the Laotian Panhandle near the Ban Karai Pass. We cannot yet determine whether these tanks are actually returning to North Vietnam.
- Communist logistic activity in southern Laos is now at very low, rainy-season levels, but remains fairly heavy in northern South Vietnam and in the North Vietnamese Panhandle.
- Combat activity rose in South Vietnam on several days of the past week, in anticipation of the "new" ceasefire agreement. Activity in Laos was at a very low level.

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The Details

NOTE: This is the seventeenth in a series of reports detailing recently received evidence of (a) Communist efforts to infiltrate new manpower and military materiel toward and into South Vietnam, and (b) Communist-initiated combat activity in violation of the Vietnam and Laos settlement agreements.

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A. Infiltration and Redeployments of North Vietnamese Personnel

1. Three small groups of civilian and military specialists headed for South Vietnam were the only new North Vietnamese personnel observed beginning the infiltration trip south during the week. These groups had a combined strength of less than 60 men. Thus our total estimate of North Vietnamese personnel infiltrated into South Vietnam or adjacent border areas since 27 January remains at some 50,000--25,000 of whom were already in the infiltration pipeline as of 27 January plus 25,000 who started their journey after that date.

2. The North Vietnamese currently may be deploying small numbers of tanks northward in the central Panhandle of Laos. On 12 June there were indications that 12 tanks were apparently moving northward along Route 912 toward the Ban Karai Pass on the North Vietnamese border. If in fact they are returning to North Vietnam, they would be the first armored equipment observed doing so since the original Vietnam settlement agreement was signed on 27 January. As we have reported earlier, in the first several months after 27 January the Communists brought a minimum of 350 new tanks into South Vietnam. The tanks which

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may be moving northward in the Laotian Panhandle could be stragglers--tanks intended for earlier delivery to the south but delayed for some reason--which were forced to turn around because of the current rainy season in southern Laos.

3. Elements of COSVN Headquarters continue to move into South Vietnam from Cambodia. On 11 June, an additional subordinate element of COSVN was identified in South Vietnam's Tay Ninh Province--in a traditional COSVN base area--having moved from its late May position in Kompong Cham Province, Cambodia. Two other COSVN command elements which are still in Cambodia may also relocate to South Vietnam in the near future, since they normally operate in the same geographic area as the unit which has moved.

B. Movement of Military Equipment and Supplies Through and Into Laos and South Vietnam

4. We are now well into the rainy season in most areas of Indochina, and Communist logistics activity in these areas is at a very low level. Traffic detected on the central routes through the Laos Panhandle was particularly light during the week, although most of the roads in the area were still in fairly good condition. The only regions where a substantial level of NVA logistic activity continues are northern South Vietnam and the southern Panhandle of North Vietnam. (Both of these areas are on the eastern side of the Annamite mountain chain, where the rainy season does not begin until September.) Evidence received on 11 and 12 June indicates that the North Vietnamese are planning to continue major supply and logistic operations in northern South Vietnam, at least for the next ten days or so. At this writing, it is not clear whether these operations will be affected by the Paris negotiations and the understandings incorporated in the 13 June communique. (ANNEX II, for [redacted] contains more details on these North Vietnamese plans.)

5. The following instances of Communist logistic activity were observed in South Vietnam during the period. Activity observed in South Vietnam

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probably reflects supplies which have recently entered the country. (The map on the following page shows the roads and route numbers which appear below.)

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a). [] 13 cargo trucks were observed on Route 1 north of Dong Ha (1 northbound, 3 southbound, 9 parked).

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b). [] 95 cargo vehicles were detected on Route 9 between Dong Ha and the Laos/South Vietnam border (34 eastbound, 10 westbound, 51 parked).

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c). [] 22 cargo trucks were parked on a feeder route running north from Route 9 west of Dong Ha.

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d). [] 168 cargo trucks were detected on Route 548 north of the A Shau Valley (29 northbound, 40 southbound, 99 parked).

6. During the reporting period the following indications of North Vietnamese logistic activity in southern Laos were noted. Historical precedent would suggest that much of this activity probably involved supplies destined for South Vietnam.

a). The table below lists observed NVA vehicle activity on selected routes in the Laos Panhandle during the reporting period.*

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	<u>Rt 99</u>	<u>Rt 9211</u>	<u>Rt 958</u>
	18 (4-N, 4-S)	3 (2-N)	0
	7 (Parked)	3 (1-N, 2-S)	0
	0	NC	0
	NC	1 (1-S)	0
	NC	0	NC
	3 (1-N, 2-S)	0	NC

* The first number in each entry is the total number of vehicles. Of these totals, the number of trucks moving north (N) or south (S) are noted in the parentheses after each total. The remainder of the vehicles detected were parked along the roadway. "NC" indicates no coverage.

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- b). [] 10 cargo trucks were observed parked on Route 914 south of Tchepone.

7. There is additional evidence of the continuing movement within North Vietnam of military and other supplies probably destined for South Vietnam and southern Laos. (Once again, it remains to be seen whether the 13 June Paris communique will affect such supply movements.)

- a). On 7 June, 45 cargo vehicles were observed traveling south and 42 moving north over a bridge crossing the Troc River south of Dong Hoi.
- b). On 10 June, 37 southbound and 41 northbound cargo vehicles were noted moving through the operational area of an NVA logistic unit south of Dong Hoi.
- c). On 10 June, a storage facility in the Vinh area dispatched 10 vehicles carrying 33 tons of AAA and rocket ammunition to an unknown destination.

C. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces in South Vietnam Since the Ceasefire

8. In South Vietnam, the total number of Communist-initiated ceasefire violations reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces since 27 January and for the last week (8-14 June) are shown below:

<u>Military Region</u>	<u>Total Since Ceasefire Level of Action</u>		<u>Last Week (8-14 June) Level of Action</u>	
	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
MR 1	1,017	3,359	26	106
MR 2	257	1,854	17	97
MR 3	400	2,576	15	161
MR 4	659	6,166	38	346
Totals	2,333	13,955	96 (106) <u>1/</u>	710 (542) <u>1/</u>

1/ Denotes totals of previous week.

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9. Some of these violations may have been initiated by GVN forces rather than Communist forces, and it is impossible in all cases to determine the actual instigator. The table above and the chart on the following page, however, do show fairly accurately the trend in the amount of combat that has occurred in South Vietnam since the cease-fire. The fact that a combat incident occurred at a particular time and place is generally reported accurately by the South Vietnamese, even though the question of who started it may not always be treated in objective fashion. In some cases, the Joint Military Commission (GVN/PRG) also reports violations of the ceasefire.

10. The following is a chronological listing of only the most significant "major" Communist violations of the ceasefire in South Vietnam that were reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces during the past week.

MILITARY REGION 1

- a). No significant activity.

MILITARY REGION 2

- a). On 8 June, 12 miles west of Kontum, friendly forces received a ground attack.
- b). On 9 and 10 June, nine miles southwest of Kontum, friendly forces received two ground attacks.

MILITARY REGION 3

- a). On 9 June, 12 to 17 miles southeast of Dau Tieng, ground fire downed three VNAF UH-1H helicopters.

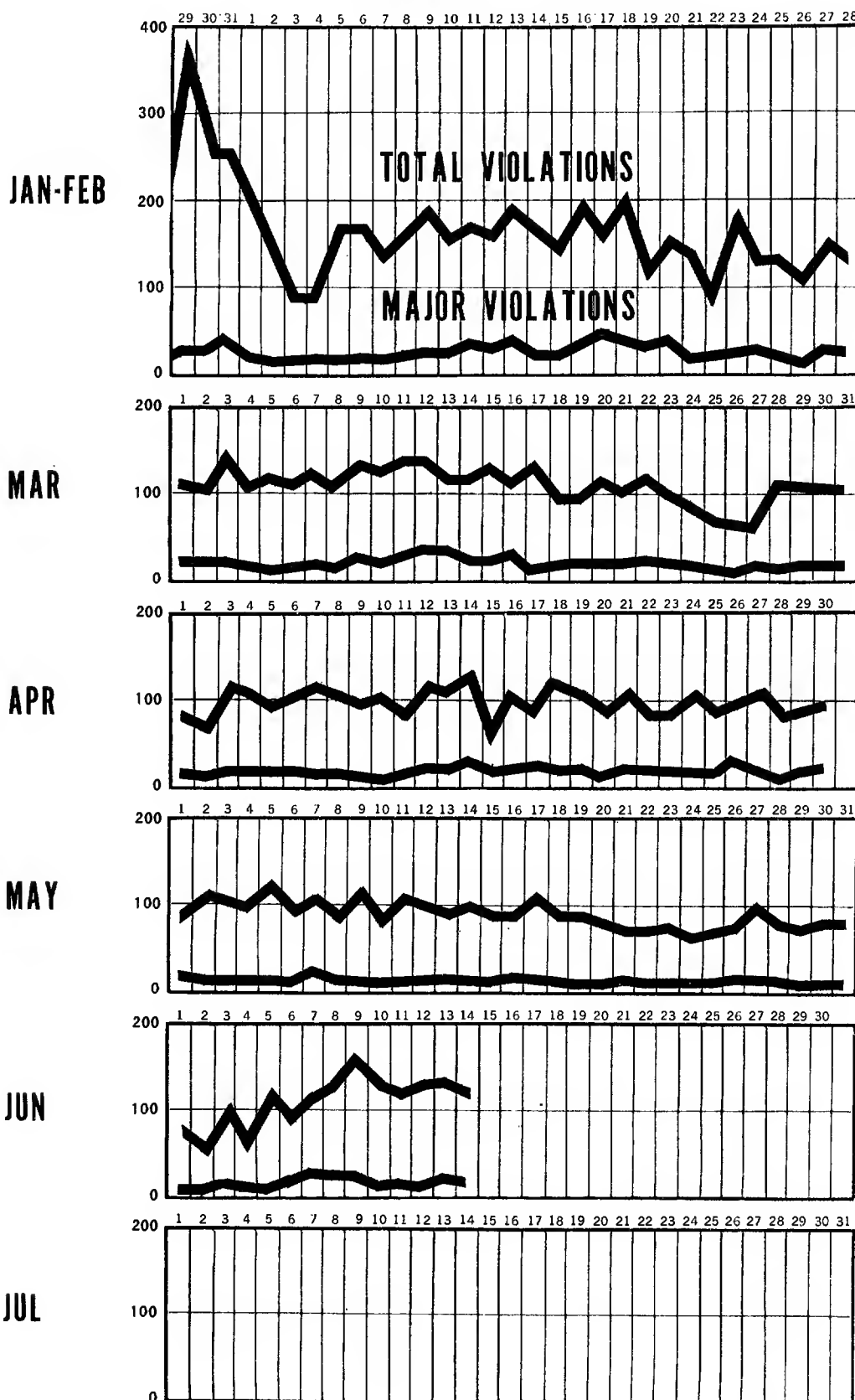
MILITARY REGION 4

- a). On 8 June, 10 miles east of Tri Tom, an ARVN infantry unit received a ground attack.



CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS REPORTED BY RVNAF

(28 JANUARY 1973 TO THE PRESENT)



D. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces
in Laos During The Week From 8 Through 14 June

11. Only minor Communist-initiated attacks occurred in Laos during the week. On 10 June government local defense forces were forced once again from the San Soak airstrip in extreme northern Khammouane Province. The airstrip, which had been lost during the previous week, had been reoccupied early on 10 June with no enemy opposition.

12. The North Vietnamese appear to be preparing an airstrip in northern Laos to be utilized for transporting personnel and equipment during the rainy season. The airstrip is at Phong Savan on the northeastern edge of the Plaine des Jarres, and on 12 June 2,300 feet of its 4,000 foot runway were observed to be in usable condition.

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ANNEX II

NVA Transportation Offensive in
Quang Tri Province

NVA communications intercepted on 11 June disclosed that a "transportation offensive" is now in progress in Quang Tri Province, and will continue through 25 June. The message originated from Group 473, the division-level logistic entity responsible for activity in northern South Vietnam and the adjacent border areas of the Laos Panhandle. The Group informed a subordinate transportation battalion that the unit's transport capability would have to be raised for the "transportation campaign." The battalion responded that many of its damaged vehicles were being repaired, but that they would be capable of "transporting in inclement weather" to meet the requirements of the campaign.

Source: NVA 3/00/17683-73 (STY)

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